



**Meeting Minutes**

**WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)  
ACCELER8 ISSUES WORKSHOP  
EAA Reservoir, Phase 1, Basis of Design Report (BODR)  
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
Thursday, March 30, 2006 - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Building B-1, Auditorium  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL**

Attending  
WRAC Members

David Lithgow

Ken Todd

1. Open House – 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.
2. Welcome, Meeting Purpose and Ground Rules – Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator, SFWMD  
Rick welcomed all present and introduced Tommy Strowd and Shawn Waldeck, Project Manager, Acceler8
3. EAA Reservoir Project A-1, Preliminary Design Report. Shawn Waldeck, P.E., Project Manager  
Question and answers:
  - How many people live in this area?
  - How big of a risk is it for these people?
  - Could an agreement be created where there is no more development?
  - Could this reservoir be used to take water from Lake Okeechobee?
  - What will happen is the reservoir is full and there is a storm coming?
  - Have you come up with an Operations & Maintenance (O&M) cost?
  - Why were the projects separated?
  - Did you do any modeling?
  - Do you have any safety valves?
  - What is the rationale to construct a reservoir instead of wetlands?
  - How is the reservoir going to help the estuaries?
  - Can you guarantee that the water that you are going to pump into the Everglades is going to be clean?
  - How are you going to control aquatic vegetation?
  - Will STA3/4 be able to handle the additional water?
  - When will cell 2 come on line and will there be public access to these cells?

A: We have no control over land use; it is up to the individual government agencies to regulate development. Some of the area will benefit from the additional water storage in the reservoir, but we need to make clear that the purpose of this project is for environmental restoration and is not intended for flood control. This reservoir will not take discharges only from Lake Okeechobee so that the opportunity to take 6" to 8" of water from the Lake is not feasible. The reservoir has been designed to hold additional water even when it is full. In addition, agricultural runoff will continue to go thru STA3/4. The O&M cost is estimated to be about \$2 million a year. The projects were separated because of funding issues. The

modeling for the reservoir was done with the reservoir at its fullest capacity, together with different scenarios, the worst condition being a category 3 hurricane with five feet of rain. The design is made to contain all that falls in our reservoir. One of the purpose of CERP is restoring marshes to the Everglades. Reservoirs are the way to capture large volume of water and deliver them during dryer times. We need to be able to store this water. We expect to receive Lake Okeechobee releases that would have gone east and west, by providing the capacity to move water south. It is our intent to improve the ability to get water as clean as we can before it goes into the Everglades. Aquatic vegetation is one of the unknown components, we won't know until we start operating the reservoir. We see no need for additional STAs, the current STA configuration should be able to handle the additional volume, we don't propose to add additional flows. Optimistically, cell 2 will come on line by 2007 and public access is part of the Project Report Implementation (PIR.)

## 6. Public Comment

M.S. Kendall, Belle Glade Vice-Mayor – At a recent meeting it was mentioned that they were planning to flood government owned areas. Are there any plans in the future to flood any government owned lands around the Belle Glade area?

Tommy Strowd - I am not aware of any land purchases for flooding purposes other that for the construction of the reservoir.

Rick Smith - What will be the potential flooding effect to the north of the reservoir?

Shawn Waldeck - The purpose is to alleviate the potential for flooding, but the reservoir is like a bathtub and it can overflow its banks and flow north. That will only happen in a worst-case scenario and there will be sufficient time for an emergency evacuation.

Newton Cook – The walls of the reservoir were our concern and we have seen that they are people/animal friendly. The design for the boat ramps will work.

Byron Maharrey – We want to have the opportunity to recreate on vacant lands before construction begins.

David Lithgow – Hurricanes will stir up more sediment than a motor boat will. Every time there is a dedication ceremony, the Governor, the Senators and public figures are invited but we always forget the people, the people that provide the money for these projects. The outdoor recreation people are the reason we have CERP. We need to work out the issues of the permit with the EPA. When there is a bass tournament out there, you will have people talking about the benefits of CERP more than water quality and in turn, they will be talking to their Congress to get more money allocated for these projects.

John Koch – This project has many benefits, it will stop the back pumping of the STA into Lake Okeechobee and it could lower the level of the Lake. For the amount of money you are spending, there is not enough “bang” for your money. The money will be better spent by creating a sheet flow, build the Tamiami Trail skyway so that water flows to the Park.

Drew Martin - We are really concerned that not enough land is being purchased. To re-create the everglades flow you must have sheet flow. You need to clean the water before it flows into the reservoir and it must flow through an STA. We want to see more habitat and areas with an original environment. We would like a guarantee that this land has not been slated for future development.

John Marshall - We need to create a more natural approach instead of engineering flows that don't seem to work.

Rosa Durando - Stated the Bolles canal needs to be improved and STAs and Reservoirs need to be associated with the improvement. This reservoir will insure the demise of the Florida panther within 15 years, regardless of all the efforts done to bring back this species.

Juanita Green – We want to restore everglades flow of clean water to the Everglades and we are not sure that the reservoir will help reach that point.

Terry Gibson - Support compatible recreation on any of these wetlands and we advocate for farmers to be paid a fair market value for the lands being purchased without the need for eminent domain.

Tommy Strowd – This has been one of the best meetings we've had and encourage all of you to contact us with any comments or issues you may have.

Adjourn – 7:30 p.m.